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PUBLIC STATEMENT OF CLARENCE KING

JAN 24 2000

MR. KING: Good afternoon. I am Clarence King. I am an international rep with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, or IBEW. I live in Omaha and I serve the Eleventh District of the IBEW, which includes Nebraska as well as Iowa, Missouri, and the Dakotas. I've only been in this position since last July. Prior to that I spent 19 years working in the commercial nuclear power plants in the field of radiation protection. I've worked at 14 plants, including both of the plants in the state of Nebraska.

The IBEW represents approximately 750,000 workers in all areas dealing with the production and the use of electricity and electrical products. This includes permanent workers at two-thirds of the nuclear power plants in the United States as well as contract labor and construction projects at virtually every plant in the country.

1... Our workers have a strong interest in the continued use of nuclear power as a viable source of electricity. The debate over high-level waste has been going on for years. [We have an environmental challenge that must be solved. The Yucca Mountain Project may be the answer to this debate. The project has been pursued since the mid-'80s, and the current proposal is based on sound scientific evidence.

2 The site represents the best option for permanent disposal of high-level waste. [Currently there are 36 states with one or more sites that have used fuel. There is an established history by the nuclear power industry that fuel can be safely stored and transported.

The first commercial reactor, the Dresden plant in Illinois, went online in 1961. Since that time, the record shows that fuel has been transported safely and handled correctly.

The debate is quite heated, but the industry's record is clear. The industry, along with diligent oversight from regulatory bodies, has demonstrated the necessary technology to handle and transport spent nuclear fuel. The technology has been considered in the design of the Yucca Mountain Project. [

Nuclear power accounts for 20 percent of the electricity produced in the United States and 31 percent in the state of Nebraska. It also represents significant savings in emissions versus the usage of fossil fuels.

1 cont. [Currently there is little construction of base-load plants in the U.S. This is likely attributed to companies' concerns over the current proposals to deregulate the industry. With no replacement for nuclear plants, it's imperative that solutions to the waste problem be explored. This project represents the best solution to the problem.

The draft environmental impact statement shows that the site characterization project is very viable. The environmental and ecological data that has been collected to date shows this site to be acceptable. We believe that continued testing will further support this decision.

In closing, the IBEW supports the ongoing testing at the site and the draft environmental impact statement on the Yucca Mountain Project. We believe that the final statement due later this year will result in a finding to recommend the site for acceptance of waste, and we ask that the DOE proceed cautiously but expeditiously in that direction. [Thanks for the opportunity to speak.

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